

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 SCSE-00 SCA-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 MCT-01  
IO-13 DHA-02 EUR-12 /104 W  
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R 031140Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 1778/1

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, CG, US  
SUBJECT: ALLEGATION OF AMERICAN MERCENARIES IN SHABA

REF: A. STATE 99539 B. DAR ES SALAAM 1757

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE MENTIONED REFTELS: BEGIN TEXT.  
A GROUP OF 28 PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES AND HUNS HAVE  
BEEN EVACUATED FROM ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE TO ANGOLA AND ARE NOW IN  
LUANDA. THE MISSIONARIES, FROM THE PLYMOUTH BRETHREN MISSION  
OF KASAJI, FROM MUTSHATSHA AND FROM DILOLO, WERE, THEY SAID  
"FORCED TO LEAVE BECAUSE OF THE ADVANCE OF THE ZAIRE FORCES  
AND HEAVY BOMBING OF THE AREAS BY THE THE MACCHI AND MIRAGE  
FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OF THE ZAIRE AIR FORCE.

THEY SAID THE CONGOLESE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT HAD GONE TO  
THEM AND OFFERED TO HELP IN THEIR EVACUATION TO ANGOLA. THEY HAD  
HELPED IN THEIR EVACUATION TO ANGOLA. THEY HAD TRAVELLED TO THE  
ANGOLA BORDER IN TRUCKS, TRACTOR AND TRAILER AND ALONG THE  
RAILWAY LINE AND CROSSED TO THE ANGOLAN BORDER TOWN OF TEIXEIRA  
DA SOUSA AT THREE IN THE MORNING OF APRIL 19TH. THERE, THEY  
WERE TAKEN IN CHARGE BY THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE SAID  
THEY ARE HELPING IN THE MISSIONARIES EVACUATION "FOR HUMANITARIAN  
REASONS. AN ANGOLAN OFFICIAL TOLD ME: "THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS  
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AND WE ARE PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID."

THE MISSIONARIES ALL REPORTED THE POPULATION HAD FLED FROM THE  
TOWNS THEY EVACUATED BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY AIR BOMBING THAT BEGAN  
ON APRIL 11TH. MANY, THEY SAID, WERE CROSSING INTO ZAMBIA FROM  
THE MUTSHATSHA AREA WHILE THOSE FROM KASAJI WERE MOVING TOWARDS  
THE ANGOLAN BORDER.

GEORGE RAYMOND, A BRITISH MISSIONARY FROM KASAJI, SAID THE

TOWN OF KASAJI WAS BOMBED FOUR DAYS ON APRIL 11, 15, 16 AND 17. THE FIRST BOMBING RUN WAS BY TWO MACCHI BOMBERS FLYING LOW. BUT THE OTHER DAYS MIRAGE AIRCRAFT WERE USED. ANOTHER MISSIONARY FROM THE PLYMOUTH BROTHERS GROUP TOLD ME: "THE OTHER TIMES THE PLANES FLEW VERY HIGH UP, THEY MADE QUITE A DIFFERENT SOUND, THEY CAME STRAIGHT ON AND DROPPED MUCH HEAVIER BOMBS - THE CRATERS WERE THREE METRES DEEP AND SIX METRES ACROSS. THEY DROPPED A COUPLE OF BOMBS EACH TIME."

ALTHOUGH THE MISSIONARIES AT KASAJI SAID THE TARGET APPEARED TO BE THE RAILWAY LINE, IT WAS CIVILIAN HOUSES AND THE MISSION THAT HAD BEEN HIT.

AT MUTSHATSHA THE BOMBING HAD BEEN HEAVIER STILL AND HAD HIT A RAILWAY WORKERS' COMPOUND CAUSING MANY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. SPANISH AND ITALIAN NUNS AND A BELGIAN PRIEST REPORTED HEAVY BOMBING ON EASTER MONDAY AND THE FOLLOWING DAY TWO SEPARATE BOMBING RUNS AT 14.00 AND 18.20 IN THE EVENING. DURING THE DAY THE CIVILIAN POPULATION LEFT THE TOWNS TO HIDE OUT FROM THE ZAIRE BOMBERS IN THE BUSH, BUT ON THE LAST DAY THEY HAD ALREADY RETURNED WHEN THE 18.20 BOMBING RUN WAS MADE AND BLASTED THE RAILWAY WORKERS COMPOUND. MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE INJURED, THE NUNS SAID.

EARLIER, BEFORE MUTSHATSHA WAS TAKEN BY THE CONGOLESE LIBERATION FRONT, RECOMMAOSSAMCE AIRCRAFT FROM THE ZAIRE AIR FORCE HAD CIRCLED THE AREA. ONE OF THE MUTSHATSHA NUNS TOLD ME THE LIBERATION FRONT CLAIMED IT HAD SHOT DOWN ONE OF THESE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. AND SHE KNEW A GREEK SHOPKEEPER IN MUTSHATSHA WHO HAD ARRIVED ON FOOT ONE EVENING AND SPENT THE NIGHT IN HIS HOUSE. THEY HAD SAID THEIR AIRCRAFT HAD DEVELOPED A TECHNICAL FAULT SOME WAY AWAY, AND THEY HAD HAD TO COME ON FOOT TO MUTSHATSHA. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FOLLOWING DAY, A ZAIRE MILITARY HELICOPTER ARRIVED TO TAKE THEM AWAY.

THIS WOULD SEEM TO BEAR OUT THE LIBERATION FRONT CLAIMS THAT MERCENARIES FROM VARIOUS WESTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING AMERICANS ARE FIGHTING WITH THE ZAIRE FORCES. THE MISSIONARIES SAID THE PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT MORE THAN 200 SUCH MERCENARIES IN KOLWEZI BUT THEY HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM A DIRECT EYE WITNESS, EXCEPT THE CASE OF THE TWO AMERICANS.

ALL THE MISSIONARIES SAID THEY HAD NOT SEEN ANY NON-CONGOLESE WITH THE LIBERATION FRONT FORCES.

ONE COMMENTED: "THE FIRST CUBAN I SAW WAS AT LUSP, ANGOLA", LUSO IS AROUND 464 KILOMETRES FROM THE BORDER WITH ZAIRE.

THE MISSIONARIES AT DILOLO SAID WHEN THE FRONT HAD TAKEN DILOLO THEY WERE ON FOOT WITH NO VEHICLES AT ALL AND ONLY LIGHT WEAPONS. THEY HAD AT ONCE REQUISITIONED PRIVATE VEHICLES. THEY SAID THAT AT MOST THE FRONT HAD NUMBERED 100 MEN AT DILOLO, AND MET NO RESISTANCE.

AT KASAJI, WHERE A COMPANY OF MOBUTU'S FAMOUS KAMANAYOLA DIVISION OF ELIEE TROOPS WERE STATIONED, THE MISSIONARIES SAID THEY

HAD BURIED OVER 100 OF THE ELITE FORCES AFTER THE LIBERATION FRONT HAD TAKEN THE TOWN, BUT SAID THERE WERE NON CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. CIVILIANS, HOWEVER, WERE WOUNDED WHEN THE ZAIRE AIR FORCE BEGAN BOMBING RAIDS.

ONE OF THE NUNS SAID AMONG THE WOUNDED SHE HAD TREATED WERE SEVERAL ZAIRE ARMY SOLDIERS WHO HAD LEFT HANDS IN ORDER NOT TO FIGHT THE FRONT SOLDIERS.

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 031200Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS FINAL SECTION OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 1778/2

"SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD ALSO BEEN CALLED TO SEE SICK SOLDIERS IN A ZAIRE ARMY ARMoured PERSONAL CARRIER BUT SHE SAID "THEY WERE'T ILL, THEY WERE JUST PRETENDING 'CAUSE THEY WERE FRIGHTENED AND THEY DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT."

MANY JUST THEW DOWN THEIR ARMS AND RAN AWAY, THE MISSIONARIES SAID, WHEN THEY HEARD THE FRONT SOLDIERS WERE COMING.

OTHERS WENT TO JOIN THE LIBERATION FRONT. MANY YOUNG MEN WENT TO JOIN THE FRONT. THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING AWAY TO JOIN THE FRONT AND GET MILITARY TRAINING, A NUN SAID.

AT DILOLO, THE MISSIONARIES SAID THE LIBERATION FRONT ENTERED AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE. ONE SAID: "WE DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING - NO UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS OR MEN. AFTERWARDS, PEOPLE SAID THEY HAD COME INTO THE AREA SOME TIME BEFORE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WITHOUT GUNS OR ANYTHING AND ONLY AFTER THEY WERE HERE DID THEY PUT ON THEIR UNIFORMS AND START TO TAKE THE TOWN. THE MISSIONARIES ALL SAID THE LIBERATION FRONT "WAS ADAMANT - THEY AREN'T KATANGESE, THEY SAID. THEY ARE CONGOLESE AND THEY SAID THEY HAVE COME TO LIBERATE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY FROM MOBUTU'S RULE. THEY TALKED ABOUT EQUALITY."

ALL SAID THE LIBERATION FRONT HAD TEATED THEM WELL. "THEY WERE VERY FRIENDLY", AND EMPHASISED THE ZAIRE FORCES WHEN THEY FLED FROM

THE FRONT ADVANCE, THEY HAD NOT TAKEN CARE OF EITHER THE LOCAL POPULATION OR OF THE MISSIONARIES, BUT HAD JUST RUN OFF.

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IN MUTSHATSHA, KASAJI AND DILOLO ALL THE MISSIONARIES REPORTED THE FRONT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE IN MUTSHATSHA, A NUN SAID, THEY CAME TO HER WITH A WOUNDED SOLDIER SINGING AND DANCING THAT THEY WERE GOING TO FREE THE COUNTRY FROM MOBUTU'S RULE. THE NUN SAID THE FRONT SOLDIERS HAD GONE TO THE STATION WHERE WAGONS WERE WAITING LOADED WITH FOOD FOR THE ZAIRE FORCES THAT HAD BEEN EVACUATED. SHE TOLD ME: "THEY STARTED DISTRIBUTING THE FOOD. THEY DIDN'T KEEP IT FOR THEMSELVES. THEY GAVE IT OUT SO EVERYONE HAD SOME."

ANOTHER NUN FROM MUTSHATSHA PAINTED A VERY DIFFERENT PICTURE OF THE ZAIRE ARMY. SHE SAID WHEN THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF THE TOWN HAD HEARD THE FRONT WAS ON ITS WAY TO MUTSHATSHA STILL OCCUPIED BY THE ZAIRE ARMED FORCES, THEY HAD FLED INTO THE BUSH TO AVOID THE FIGHTING. THE NUN SAID MOBUTU'S TROOPS - ELITE PARA COMMANDOS AND OTHER UNITS OF THE KAMANAYOLA DIVISION, AT ONCE LOOTED ALL ABANDONED HOUSES AND TOOK POSSESSION OF THEIR CONTENTS.

THE MISSIONARIES DESCRIBED THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN SHABA BEFORE THE REBELLION AS CHAOTIC. "THE PEOPLE HAD GOOD REASON TO FEEL DISSATISFIED" SAID ONE.

ONE BRITISH MISSIONARY SAID: "THE PEOPLE PRODUCE A LOT OF FOOD CROPS IN THE AREA BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID UNFAIR PRICES AND THEY COULDN'T SHIP IT OUT. IT JUST ROTTED. THE ROADS ARE SO BAD AND THEY CAN'T GET THEIR PRODUCE TO THE RAILWAY LINE."

HE SAID THAT IN THE YEARS HE HAS BEEN IN ZAIRE, THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED CONSISTENTLY. ANOTHER MISSIONARY SAID THERE WAS TOTAL DISORGANISATION.

SHORTAGES OF VARIOUS KEY ITEMS SUCH AS SOAP, COOKING OIL AND SALT HAD LED THE ZAIREAN POPULATION INTO REGULAR BARTER TRADING ACROSS THE BORDER WITH ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA. AND THEY SAID THE ZAIRE AUTHORITIES REGULARLY SWOOPED ON ZAIREAN RETURNING WITH SUCH GOODS, GRABBED THE GOODS AND BEAT UP AND MALTREATED THOSE CAUGHT IN CROSS FRONTIER TRADING.

THE MISSIONARIES ARE BEING PUT UP IN A LUANDA SEASIDE HOTEL, BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO REPATRIATE THEM ACCORDING TO THEIR WISHES. END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

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